



Town of Atikokan

Box 1330, 120 Marks Street
Atikokan, Ontario P0T 1C0

Office of the Mayor
807-597-1234 x235
Administration/Accounting
807-597-1234
Community Services
807-597-1234 x232 or x229
Director of Public Works
807-597-1234 x231
Fire/Building
807-597-1234 x228
Office Fax: 807-597-6186
www.atikokan.ca

February 15, 2018

VIA Email: boardsec@oeb.ca

Ontario Energy Board
Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Board Secretary

RE: **Review of Miscellaneous Rates and Charges (EB-2015-0304)**
Draft Report of the Board - *Framework for Determining Wireline Pole Attachment Charges*

Atikokan Town Council certainly supports Shaw Cablesystems G.P. (Shaw) email to you on February 9, 2018 regarding the Ontario Energy Board Draft Report "Framework for Determining Wireline Pole Attachment Charges" issued on December 18, 2017. We feel that Shaw has made an excellent point in saying for the proposal to more than double the rate all utilities change licensees such as Shaw, to attach wires to their poles from the existing rate of \$22.35 to \$52.00 per pole per year, effective early in 2018 is not good. It is too much of an increase and particularly would be harmful in rural towns like Atikokan which require a large number of pole attachments to service a very small customer base.

By more than doubling the rate for telecom wire attachments to thousands of utility poles will certainly significantly increase monthly costs to those of us served by Shaw in Atikokan.

Shaw cable provides a very reliable cable system in our town and it costs enough now on a monthly basis to Atikokan residents who use the service. If the costs increase considerably it will no doubt have a negative effect on many households in Atikokan as well as for many other small towns in Northern Ontario. Many households will have to eliminate the cable system as they won't be able to afford paying such a dramatic increase in costs.

Given the foregoing, Atikokan Town Council agrees with Shaw that the Board should set-aside the Draft Report and maintain the current pole attachment rate of \$22.35, with an adjustment for inflation, while it conducts a fulsome rate-setting proceeding and the outcome of such a proceeding is reasonable for all the residents and businesses served by Shaw Cable in Atikokan and all of Northern Ontario.

Yours truly

Dennis Brown
Mayor

cc: Atikokan Town Council
Hon. Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy
Hon. Bill Mauro, MPP Thunder Bay - Atikokan
Hon. Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay - Superior North
Ian Phillips, Government Relations Manager, Shaw Communications